

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11. (Cancel)

12. (Original) A polymer-grafted natural fiber wherein the polymer is a polyether.

13. (Cancel)

14. (Currently Amended) A polymer-grafted natural fiber obtained using a process comprising the following steps:

converting the hydroxyl groups on the natural fiber into the corresponding salified alcoholate groups;

grafting on the salified alcoholate groups a functionalized polyether containing a leaving group that favors nucleophilic substitution according to any of the foregoing claims 1-11.

15. (Original) A composite material comprising polymer-grafted natural fibers, wherein the polymer is a polyether.

16. (Cancel)

17. (Currently Amended) The A composite material using polymer-grafted natural fibers, wherein the natural fibers are grafted with polymers using the a process comprising the following steps:

converting the hydroxyl groups on the natural fiber into the corresponding salfied alcoholate groups;

grafting on the salfied alcoholate groups a functionalized polyether containing a leaving group that favors nucleophilic substitution according to one or more of the foregoing claims from 1 to 11.

18. (Cancel)

19. (Currently Amended) Use of polymer-grafted natural fibers for the preparation of composite materials, wherein the natural fibers are grafted using a process comprising the following steps:

converting the hydroxyl groups on the natural fiber into the corresponding salfied alcoholate groups;

grafting on the salfied alcoholate groups a functionalized polyether containing a leaving group that favors nucleophilic substitution according to one or more of the foregoing claims from 1 to 11.